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GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DECISION TO EXPORT FOODGRAIN, FERTILIZERS

Karachi DAWN in English 17 Feb 81 p 10

[Article by Hasan Saeed]

[Text] DACC: Bangladesh sprung its own brand of surprise to the world with the announcement that it will export foodgrain and fertilizers this year. A limited quantity of rice is to be sold to Djibouti. Sri Lanka and Pakistan will import 20,000 metric tons of fertilizer each from Bangladesh.

The sudden decision to join the rank of foodgrain and fertilizer exporting countries came as a surprise to millions both at home and abroad for the simple reason that it was still known to be far short of basic minimum requirement in both these commodities.

Food deficit was being met from imports from the United States, Canada, EEC, Australia, West Germany, Japan, Thailand, Nepal, India and Pakistan.

Fertilizers were coming mainly from the United States and Saudi Arabia. Most of it was outright grant.

Interestingly enough both Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh recently competed in an international tender for the sale of fertilizers to Pakistan. Bangladesh won the tender.

STORAGE GAP

But behind the apparent story of Bangladeshi success on the food and fertilizer front lies the sad commentary on the government's failure to have sufficient godowns for the storage of foodgrains and fertilizers being imported or raised internally. Bumper winter (Aman) crop and unexpected high rate of internal procurement of rice exposed the big storage gap.

As soon as the Government got the hint that there will be bumper crop, it requisitioned all private and public godowns for storing rice. Some schools in far flung areas were given notice to be pre-

pared to lease out part of their premises for one year for storing foodgrains.

In spite of this, when harvesting started the Government was already short of storage capacity. International tenders were hurriedly floated to build 400 godowns before the rainy season started. Financial help was assured by the United States, Australia, Britain and some other countries.

But the engineers involved in the construction of the godowns and its planning, however, informed the Government that it would not be possible to build all the 400 godowns within that period. Some of the rice must be disposed of.

Likewise, with nearly all the godowns taken over by the Government for storing rice, there was hardly much of covered space available for fertilizers. In the previous years a large quantity of fertilizers received as grants was destroyed while kept in open space at the Chittagong port. The Government is no longer in a mood to let precious food or fertilizer be destroyed.

For both rice and fertilizers market was readily available. As a matter of fact, when Bangladesh announced its decision to export fertilizers, India sent its Commerce Minister to buy all of it. But there was no fertilizers left with Bangladesh to be stored in open place. The Indian Minister went empty-handed.

During the current year, food storage capacity will be raised from 11.77 lakh tons to one and a half million tons. The Government has earmarked Taka 100 crore for the construction of 400 godowns having a storage capacity of two lakh tons.

In the meantime, the Government is building a food reserve of one and a half million tons to avert any sudden crisis like the famine of 1974 when at least one

lakh people had perished. That year food shortage was estimated at 14.87 lakh tons.

FROM PENURY TO PLENTY

Bangladesh immediately after coming to being imported 6.81 lakh tons of foodgrains. The following year the quantity of imported foodgrains reached the highest quantum — about 28.24 lakh tons.

In 1973-74 about 16.09 lakh tons of wheat and rice were imported and the next year the quantity again rose to 22.93 lakh tons.

The production of foodgrain was favourable in 1976-77 when only about 8.10 lakh tons was imported. It was more than double in 1977-78 and the quantity of imported foodgrain rose last year to 27.82 lakh tons.

The present Government has launched a massive canal digging programme to boost food production to match an astronomical rise in population. It plans to raise 20 million tons of foodgrains by the end 1985 when the country's population is estimated to touch the 100 million mark.

The present production is 13 million tons, but an Agriculture Ministry sources said they were certain to reach 18 million tons by the end of 1985.

Last year Bangladesh agriculture suffered nearly 1200 crore taka loss due to the withdrawal of Ganges waters by India during the dry season to flush Calcutta port. By the end 1982, India may withdraw a yet larger quantity of water to meet the requirements of the 300 irrigation projects under implementation upstream in UP and Bihar. If that happens then Bangladesh food shortage may assume a gigantic shape. The Government is fully aware of what is in store, but it is hardly prepared to face the harsh reality when it comes.

BANGLADESH

MINISTER SAYS MUJIB'S DAUGHTER CAN RETURN TO DACCA

BK271309 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Dacca, 27 Feb (AFP)--Information Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhury said here today that Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wajed, daughter of slain leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, "can return to Bangladesh any time she likes with her Bangladeshi passport."

The minister also said that there was no problem for Sheikh Hasina to take possession of her parents properties in accordance with the law of inheritance now in force in Bangladesh.

This was the first government reaction since the 33-year-old elder daughter of Mujib, living with political asylum in New Delhi with her nuclear scientist husband and two children since 1975, was elected in absentia the president of her father's party Awami League 2 weeks ago in Dacca. Hasina and her younger sister Rehana were in Europe in August 1975 when their parents, three brothers and other family members were killed in a bloody coup.

Last week party leaders in a meeting reportedly said they would resist if the authorities tried to impose any restriction on her return.

Top leaders of the Awami League, Bangladesh's largest opposition party, had flown to New Delhi early this week to persuade Hasina to return home and take up leadership of the party which split at least once 3 years back and is facing a leadership crisis since the death of her father.

Another top leader, Mahiuddin Ahmed, regarded as a pro-left infiltrator in the party, is flying to the Indian capital later today on what has been described as an "important visit."

CSO: 4220

INDIAN NEWSMAN INTERVIEWS MUJIB'S DAUGHTER

BK251105 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 1

[Report by our special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Feb--The unanimous election in absentia of Mrs Hasina Sheikh, elder daughter of the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as president of the Awami League, can easily be described as an important development on the Bangladesh scene since the slaying of the former president 6 years ago by a group of armymen.

Mrs Hasina Sheikh is one of the two surviving members of the Sheikh family. The other is her younger sister now living in London. Mrs Hasina and her family has been given asylum in India and have been staying in Delhi since 1975.

The impact of her election has been immediate. Sweets were distributed in the streets of Dacca as the news got round and the people danced with joy. "I had to sit at the telephone for hours with a series of calls coming in from Dacca," she told this correspondent. "The operator had asked me not to put down the receiver because there was a queue at the other end."

Apparently, her election had become a necessity. The Awami League, riven by dissensions, could not agree upon any other name. On the eve of the 3-day session of its council, the party was on the brink of a split.

But more important than the unity in the party her election appears to have brought about is the emergence of the political scene of a person who stands out as a symbol of hope for those who had fought for the liberation of Bangladesh. With the top leadership annihilated through a series of coups, the liberation forces have been in complete disarray.

"The thought uppermost on my mind is why should the killers of my father and the four national leaders not be punished. Far from taking any action against them, the present government has given them diplomatic assignments."

"Sometimes I feel there is no justice in the world because not a single country has raised its voice against the dastardly killings. At long last a team of British MPS had decided to go to Dacca to investigate, but the government has not allowed its entry," she said.

Mrs Hasina, 33, acknowledges that an onerous responsibility has been thrust upon her but she also recognises that there was no other way out. The Awami League had become crippled through internal squabbles and dissensions.

"It is no doubt a heavy responsibility, but I am prepared to make any sacrifices. I want to dedicate my life to the cause of the nation. Otherwise, what have I to look forward to," she mused recalling how eight members of her family had been wiped out in one swoop on a "black" morning 6 years ago.

"Have you been involved in politics?" Mrs Hasina thought it was pointless to ask this question. Her family had been deeply immersed in politics.

"I have seen politics since my birth. How could I remain unininvolved. When the police used to come to take away my father, I used to pack his suitcase and make him a cup of tea."

Sitting in a modestly-furnished room in her small three-room flat, Mrs Hasina said that she was grateful to Mrs Indira Gandhi and the government of India that they had given her asylum when she could not have returned to her country. "We are used to living in all trying conditions. That is our training."

"Do you endorse the Awami League resolution that Bangladesh should strengthen its ties with the countries which had helped the liberation struggle?"

"Yes, of course. How can we forget all that," she said and then added slowly: "We want friendship with all countries. You see, we are a poor country."

Mrs Hasina has not yet decided when she will return to her country. "It depends on conditions there. I am in consultation with my colleagues in Dacca. I will have to make a decision soon," she said.

CSO: 4220

BEST RUBIES FROM NATION OFFERED FOR SALE

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 22 Feb 81 p 4

[Text]

RANGOON, Feb. 21: Burma currently is offering for sale a collection of the best of its rubies pearls and jades at the government-run Gem Emporium here.

On display by the state-owned Gems Corporation are deep-red, pigeon-blood rubies, cool green and satin-smooth imperial jade, and lustrous pearls with a total value of six million U.S. dollars.

About 230 leading gem merchants from 16 countries are bidding at this year's annual sale, the 18th since 1964.

The emporium, a brain-child of President Ne Win, is now an established institution in the international gem trade. An unfailing source of foreign exchange, the emporium serves as an official outlet for Burmese gems into the world market.

Sales at the 17 previous emporiums fetched 62 million dollars. Before each emporium, the President himself meticulously inspects the exhibits. "He would often spot the odd ones out in a collection or rubies and rubies," said an emporium official. "He would ask us to rearrange the whole collection, to better effect and value."

Here in one place is a collection of treasures rare enough and with sufficient intrinsic value to bring the best-known gem traders from various parts of the world.

A 54 carat deep red ruby, the size of the nail on a man's little finger, is offered for sale at \$4,000 dollars. It lies on a silk pad behind the clear show glass. Oval shaped, it etches out a faint crimson halo.

"A true pigeon-blood though

admittedly not as full-blooded as the legendary Ngamauk ruby," an emporium official commented.

He was referring to the fabled gem, from the ruby town of Mogok, in northeastern Burma, said to be worth a kingdom. Legend says that it was shown to French envoys seeking mining licences from the Burmese King.

When asked how much the Ngamauk ruby was worth, the envoys were said to have replied that it was priceless. "Well, if one ruby alone is worth so much, you will understand why we cannot grant you the licence," came the rejoinder of ministers attending the King.

A prized item in the crown jewels of the Burmese kings, the ruby was lost without trace in the chaos that followed the British annexation of upper Burma in 1886.

PRECIOUS STONES

Besides rubies, there are sapphires, peridots, topaz, spinel rubies and other precious stones mined in Mogok and brought here for cutting and polishing, and put up for auction at the emporium.

The Burmese Government nationalised the ruby mines in 1950 and sent the army into Mogok area to boost production and stamp out illegal mining operations.

For the 150 merchants from Hong Kong and four from China the main attraction of the emporium is jade.

"We are displaying 251 lots of jade with a total floor price of two million dollars. They vary in size from small jewellery pieces of a few carats each to huge utility slabs weighing one and a half

tens," said an emporium official. "They include the best imperial jade favoured by the Chinese merchants," he added.

A tiny piece of imperial jade, weighing only about 10 carats is being offered for sale at \$520 dollars while another 47-carat stone, less than an inch long, has a price tag of \$3,500 dollars.

From ancient times, Burma has been supplying first-grade jade to neighbouring China, which values this tough, smooth, green silicate for making ornaments.

Soldiers have also been drafted into the main jade mining area near Mogaung, in the Kachin state of northern Burma, to combat marauding insurgents harassing miners and prevent illegal mining.

A huge jade boulder, probably the world's largest was discovered recently in Mogaung. Eleven feet long and seven feet wide (three-by-two metres), it weights 43 tons.

Despite the annual official auctions, a lot of Burmese gems and jade are known to be smuggled into Burma's other eastern neighbour Thailand. Some experts estimate that the smuggling trade even surpasses in value the annual government auctions.

"But the picture is changing," one official said optimistically. "By going directly at the mines we have struck at the root of the problem," he said.

The official said illegal miners and traders were now finding it more difficult to get the stones. "The way through the back door has now begun to be restricted."—Reuter.

CPI(M) CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SUMMARIZED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Feb 81 p 7

[Text] The CPI-M central committee has lent full support for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, warning that "any attempt to toe the line of the imperialists and beat the anti-Soviet drum will aggravate the situation in the area."

The committee met in New Delhi for five days until 8 February.

A resolution adopted at the committee meeting said: "For India and the rest of the countries of the region, the supreme danger today is represented by US naval domination of the Indian Ocean including its intervention in Afghanistan."

Referring to the current conference of the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers, the committee observed that "the imperialist camp, especially the US, is trying to split the unity of the Non-aligned movement and push its aggressive designs ahead."

It regretted China's support to former Kampuchean ruler Pol Pot who is supported by the US.

The CPI-M central committee also warned that the Non-aligned ministerial conference will lack moral strength if on the two issues of Afghanistan and Kampuchea, it does not take a forthright position exposing imperialist conspiracies."

Turning to the internal situation, the committee referred to the coming Budget session of the Parliament and cautioned the people that, "They should be prepared for a big economic onslaught on their standards of living." The sixth Plan, it said, "is a plan of attack on the incomes of the poor and for inflationary price spiral."

As for the CPI-M-CPI relationship, Mr Basavapunniah said that the CPI had opposed his party in the last elections but agreed later to join in united actions and struggles with CPI-M.

"We regard CPI as only a Left Party and our unity with it is not on party level. It is not even Communist unity."

The CPI-M has also called for defeating "the conspiracy of the authoritarian Government at the Centre" against the non-Congress-I Governments in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura.

CSO: 4220

NEW ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET SWORN IN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Feb 81 p 1

(Text) Hyderabad, Feb 9 (UNI)--Fourty four of the 60 Ministers whose resignations were accepted last Friday to facilitate the pruning of the Ministry, have been reappointed to the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet under party high command's directions.

The Anjiah Cabinet consists of 30 Ministers of Cabinet rank and 15 Ministers of State.

All the 44 were sworn-in this afternoon by Governor K C Abraham at a short notice, thus ending the nine-week-old suspense over the size of the Ministry.

The approval of the new list of Ministers was conveyed to Mr Anjiah by the AICCI over telephone after he returned from Delhi this morning.

Mr Anjiah, who returned here this morning from Delhi announced the names of Ministers just 10 minutes before the swearing-in ceremony.

Of the 16 former Ministers, who did not figure in today's list were Mr C Rambhupal Reddy, son-in-law of President N. Sanjiva Reddy, Mr K V Krishna Reddy, nephew of K Brahmananda Reddy and Mrs T Lakshmi Kanthamma.

The Cabinet Ministers are: N Amarnath Reddy, E Ayyappu Reddy, M A Abib, M Bagga Reddy, N. Bhaskar Rao, P V Choudhary, C Dass, Ch. Manumiah, M M Hashim, T N Haigriivachari, C Jagannath Rao, N Janardhan Reddy, Divi Kendiah Choudhary, A Madan Mohan, M Manik Rao, K Prabhaka Reddy, G Rajaram, B Ramdev, Mr Ranga Rao, K Rosiah, B. Sarojini Pulla Reddy, P Seshavatharam, Bhagam Sriramamurthy, G Sriramulu Naidu, G V Sudhakar Rao, A Veerappa, S Venkat Reddy, B Venkatram Reddy, G Venkataswamy.

The Ministers of State appointed are: S Alwardass, T Balagoud, N Chandrababu Naidu, P Janandhan Reddy, K E Krishnamurthy, G Nageswar Rao, C Rajanarasimha, Dr Y S Rajasekhar Reddy, G Ramaswamy, B Ravindra Naik, Mr Sathyanarayana Raju, M. Tulsider, Paladugu Venkatarao, V Venkataswara Rao Mr M N Vijayalakshmi.

CSO: 4220

REPORTS DESCRIBE PROCESS OF CENSUS-TAKING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Feb 81 pp 1, 7

(Text) New Delhi, Feb. 9.--India's population count began today with the launching of operations for the 12th national census, the fourth since independence, all over the country, except in the troubled Assam and the weather-striken Jammu and Kashmir, report PTI and UNI.

In the capital, the 1981 census was launched with the enumeration of the President, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, as the first citizen of India, in the States and Union Territories, the process began with the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors and their household members.

More than 1.25 million enumerators and supervisors went around various blocks with the questionnaires, or operation they will be engaged in for a month.

It took about 30 minutes to fill in the two sets of forms, one for household information and the other for individual details, according to a spokesman for the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay, which has been divided into 17,000 blocks. (as published)

The operation is the first in Sikkim, which became a State under the Indian Union in 1975. It is also the first time that the operation will be computerized.

The census data will be processed at the National Information Centre at Badarpur, on the outskirts of Delhi, by a very fast third-generation computer which, with a memory of 195,000 words, will also digest additional details fed into it about the country's 670 million population.

Human tabulators vying with the complicated computer system will provide the provisional population figures within a fortnight and the primary census extract by February next year.

The Registrar-General and Census Commissioner, Mr P. Padmanabha, and his staff will prepare information on the population, the general economic social and cultural background, fertility, and the disabled population, the number of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It will also bring out village and town directories.

For the first time again, information was being gathered on housing facilities and the construction material used in houses.

Special preparations have gone into the launching of the operation in the hilly tracts and areas. In the desert regions of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts, camel loads of specially trained enumerators were sent.

A special survey of degree and diploma holders and their main occupation will be made with the general census, beginning tomorrow.

About 12 million forms to elicit answers to 15 questions have been sent to enumerators in all the States and the Union Territories on the basis of the projections made by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The data would give the CSIR, at whose request the special effort is being made, an idea on the increase in the number of educated persons since 1971 and the employment opportunities available to them.

Self-addressed forms could be directly sent to the CSIR, the postage will be paid by the addressee.

The Bhoodan leader, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, today called on the people to extend their full cooperation to the Government agency that was now engaged in the "census operations."

The acharya said that "this is an important national task and needs the cooperation of everyone." He also gave a message of "satya (truth), prema (love) and karuna (sympathy)" to mark the occasion.

The census began today in Maharashtra with a team of enumerators calling on the Governor, Mr O. P. Nehru, at Raj Bhavan to make a list of the members of his family.

During the census, enumerators will also collect information on minimum needs, like drinking water facilities, house sites and toilets. There are more than 100,000 enumerators in the State.

In Bihar, the census director, Mr B. B. Lal, himself went to Raj Bhavan and the chief Minister's residence for the enumeration.

Nearly 150,000 enumerators and supervisors are engaged in the task, according to the spokesman of the census department in Patna.

A staff reporter adds: The decennial census began in West Bengal on Monday with the enumeration of members of the Governor's household at Raj Bhavan. The director of the census operations, Mr S. N. Ghosh, along with enumerators selected for the Raj Bhavan area, met the Governor, Mr T. N. Singh, at about 11 a.m. and recorded data regarding members of his family.

Although Monday was a holiday, enumerators in Calcutta visited some houses in eight zones of the city to mark the beginning of the month-long counting. A senior census official said that enumeration would begin in full swing from Tuesday. There are 7,000 enumerators for Calcutta, which has been divided into eight zones.

In the districts about 120,000 enumerators will call on every household this month and ask questions on accommodation, drinking water and sanitary facilities, the number of educated persons, students and unemployed in the family. In the rural areas, mostly primary teachers, have been engaged as enumerators by the Census Operation Directorate this year.

The district magistrates are the Principal Census Officers. They will be assisted by specially-appointed district census officers. In the municipal areas, members of local bodies will supervise the operation.

CSO: 4220

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HEAD ADDRESSES DELHI SEMINAR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Feb 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 9--The Asian Development Bank's lending will reach \$4 billion by 1986, according to its Executive Director, Mr Y. T. Shah, who also pointed out that the construction sector would receive priority in the bank's future operations.

Addressing the first day's session of the two-day workshop here today on ADB-projects under the auspices of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry, Mr Shah said the bank had given loans totalling \$1.5 billion in 1980 and such lending was expected to rise to \$2 billion. The workshop was held at the Indian engineering trade fair organized by the AIEI.

Mr Shah pointed out that Indian participation in construction projects was almost insignificant and there was urgent need to give a dimensional approach to Indian participation in this sector. The AIEI should undertake a study of specifications described in ADB tenders for a given period and submit a detailed memorandum on factors that were inhibiting Indian participation on this count.

Mr Shah said that even in contracts of other kinds, the participation of Indian firms either through tenders or bids was very low both in terms of number and value of contracts.

Mr P. K. Kaul, the Union Commerce Secretary, emphasized the growing concept of regional cooperation and said that Indian industry should pay more attention to the developing needs of the South and South-East Asian region.

The performance of Indian project exporters in West Asian was indicative of the ability of Indian companies to increase the share of participation in ADB projects, Mr Kaul said. [as published]

Mr Shah cautioned that in dealing with the ADB market, Indian companies should not see this market as an extension of their domestic operations. The ADB had evolved elaborate guidelines for procurement of goods, technical services, civil works, consultancy services and appointment of consultants for ADB-funded projects. Since these were highly negotiated documents arrived at through a process of consensus involving all the countries, it was imperative that the Indian industry should comply with these conditions. The guidelines for consultancy had

been revised last year and the bank was currently revising the guidelines relating to procurement of goods and related services, he disclosed.

Mr Shah also asked the AIEI to recognize that the present level of Indian participation in ADB tenders was only 24% of tenders floated. A target should be set for increasing the share to at least 50% by a time-bound programme. It was noticed that the ratio of projects tendered to projects awarded in the case of Indian companies could be persuaded to tender for projects, it could lead to a substantial increase in the Indian share for ADB projects.

Mr Manmohan Singh, president of the AIEI, said that while the cumulative share of procurement from India under ADB-founded projects had crossed \$100 million, the share worked out to only 3% of the cumulative total procurement done for projects in member countries, financed by ADB. India's share in the cumulative technical assistance operations of the ADB was 5.5% of the total ADB operations in this sector.

Mr Manmohan Singh pointed out that India's share had increased last year to 4.2% in respect of procurement of projects and 7.5% in technical assistance to developing member countries relating to project preparation, technical, managerial and organizational inputs. Over the years 100 Indian companies had supplied goods related services and consultancy services under ADB financed projects in a variety of fields.

CSO: 4220

WEST BENGAL PROBLEMS IN GRAIN DISTRIBUTION NOTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] The West Bengal Food Minister, Mr Sudhin Kumar said in Calcutta on Monday that the Centre had not so far responded to his request to increase the allotment of wheat for the State's public distribution system and for the flour mills. He made this request in view of accumulation of a quite substantial stock of wheat in the Food Corporation of India's godowns in the Calcutta area.

Until July last year, the State had been receiving 150,000 tons of both rice and wheat for the public distribution system. In August, the wheat quota was reduced to 100,000 tons and in October it was further cut to 55,000 tons. The rice quota had, however, been raised to 175,000 tons a month. The wheat quota for the flour mills, which had earlier been 55,000 tons, had now been reduced to 31,000 tons.

Mr Kumar said that he had asked the Centre to increase the monthly allotment of wheat for the public distribution system to 100,000 tons and that for the flour mills to 45,000 tons. The Government would be able to raise the weekly wheat quota from the ration shops once the monthly allotment of wheat to the State was increased by the Centre.

Referring to the bread shortage in the city, the Minister said that though the flour mills were receiving 10,000 tons of wheat less than their monthly requirement, the Government was giving the bakeries their full quota of flour to keep the bread supply normal. He suspected that a part of the flour quota allotted to the bakeries was being diverted to the blackmarket because of the current heavy demand for wheat and flour for the marriage festivals. The PCI also facing difficulties in the supply of wheat to North Bengal because of the despatch problem, he added.
[as published]

The PCI had decided to hand over to the State Government the responsibilities of procurement and distribution of foodgrain in the State the Minister said. The Food Department of the State Government would take over the charge from April. The Finance Department was now engaged in finding out how much money would be required to undertake the responsibility. According to a preliminary estimate, the annual turnover might be as high as Rs 600 crores, Mr Kumar said.

CSO: 4220

FAMILY PLANNING METHODS REPORTED TO FARE POORLY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Feb 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 9--Only 22.6% of 113.4 million eligible couples have been effectively protected by family planning methods. But in 12 states the percentage is even lower than the all-India figure of 22.6% according to the latest survey of the Family Welfare Department.

The States which have recorded a lower percentage than the all-India figure are Assam (18.6%), Bihar (11.8%), Jammu and Kashmir (10.2%), Madhya Pradesh (20.7%), Manipur (10.0%), Meghalaya (6.2%), Nagaland (1.1%), Rajasthan (13.2%), Sikkim (10.2%), Tripura (9.0%), U.P. (11.0%) and West Bengal (21.9%).

The survey says that full targets have not been achieved for the period under review--April to October, 1980--at the All-India level "the percentage achievement being particularly low for the oral pill". The percentage achieved in sterilisation was 54.6% and IUD insertions 65% in other methods it varied from 67% to 84%.

States have been classified on the basis of achievement of proportionate target. In sterilization Andhra Pradesh, Kerala Gujarat, Maharashtra and Sikkim achieved 75% or above in seven months--April to October. In the next category come Karnataka Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal (50 to 75%) followed by Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh Punjab, Haryana and Manipur (25 to 50%).

The IUD insertions, six States achieved the 75% and above mark. They are--Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Punjab and Gujarat, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, U.P., West Bengal, Kerala and Orissa followed with between 50% and 75%. The achievements of Andhra, Assam, Maharashtra, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan ranged between 25% and 50% while Bihar and Meghalaya lagged behind with less than 25%.

"No State could achieve the proportionate targets in all methods for the period under review. Only Sikkim, the Union Territories of Pondicherry, Mizoram and the Ministry of Defence could achieve proportionate targets in sterilizations.

However, the trend compared to the corresponding period last year indicates that in sterilization there was a 6.7% gain this year. It was much more (30.8%) in respond to contraceptive users. But there was a decline of 3% in insertions. Overall there has been a 21.6% gain this year.

The survey said that the decline in the performance of a number of States "is indeed disconcerting," but it noted that "other States have shown improvement."

The survey estimates that as many as 2.7 million births were "averted" during April-October, 1980. Last year that is 1979-80, 4.9 million births were "averted."

CSO: 4220

EXPERT SCORES PROVISIONS FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9, 10 Feb 81

[Article by Rami Chhabra, program director for Communications and Women's Projects, Family Planning Foundation: "Population Question--I: Treading the Beaten Path"]

[9 Feb 81, p 8]

[Text] While welcoming the resumption of a serious approach to the family planning programme and the impressive allocation of funds, Rami Chhabra argues that the real problem has never been paucity of funds, but the approach to implementation. The health care system, of which family planning is an integral part, has not evolved "in partnership with the people." If coercion is ruled out today, there is no humanistic framework to replace it.

Programme Director for Communications and Women's Projects with the Family Planning Foundation, a non-Government organization, Rami Chhabra writes in her capacity as an independent journalist whose views do not necessarily reflect those of the organization with which she is associated.

One certain shock 1981 has in store for the nation relates to the size of our population. Preliminary investigations undertaken by the 1981 Census indicate that India's population could be some 10-15 million more than the earlier estimates. It is almost certain that March 1981 will reveal our numbers edging closer to 690 million, against the 672 million now projected. The difference highlights the loopholes in the demographic assumptions based on expectations from the family planning programme which were not fulfilled in recent years.

Will this revelation of yet another continental mass of people on our hands--the difference alone is more than the total population of Australia--prompt any introspection on the part of those who govern the nation and shape its destiny? Or with 13 million added annually, are we too inured to numbers? Does anyone comprehend the multiplier factor now operating on a vastly expanded base which each year makes the population problem infinitely more intractable, and total development a still more distant dream? And, as for doing something about it, the question is whether there are leaders with the courage to stake their today, if the need arises, for the nation's tomorrow.

In August, when the Sixth Plan framework was released, hopes were raised with the listing of "promoting policies for controlling the growth of the population through voluntary acceptance of the small family norm" as one of the 10 main objectives of the Plan. This was the first indication that the present Government contemplated a serious return to the family planning programme, even though it had been an albatross around its electoral neck. In September these hopes were further encouraged when the Prime Minister spoke up in support of family planning as a priority need of the nation, according a televised interview solely devoted to the subject. But in the months since then, the programme has continued to limp, perhaps a fraction more bravely than before, but nevertheless hopelessly pinned to an orthopaedic crutch.

Performance

This year's performance--the first year of the Plan period--will be only marginally better than last year's: one and a three-quarter million acceptors of sterilization and less than three million using other contraceptives. In total, a little over half the modest start reportedly proposed in the Plan for the first year, which envisages a prompt build-up of momentum and underlines that lost ground in one year will have to be recouped in another, highlighting that a minimum of 15.5 million sterilization are needed by 1985 if the present birth rate is to be maintained. It proposes 22 million sterilizations, nearly eight million IUD insertions and 11 million persons protected by conventional contraceptives in the terminal year of the Plan to make an effective dent.

It is said that the Plan document has taken up the issue in earnest reiterating the urgency of the programme with an entire chapter entitled Family Planning. As further proof of commitment, it has allocated Rs 1,065 crores for this work--the largest allocation the programme has received to date, being a quantum jump from the Rs 765 crores it would have got under the Janata plan, and more than double the allocation it received in the Fifth Plan. This outlay reflects only a minor pruning of the demands made by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which were of the order of Rs 1,350 crores and equals about 65 per cent of the total outlay for health.

Message

While detailed comment on the population sensitivity of the Sixth Plan and its capability to serve as an effective instrument for containing population growth must await the publication of the Plan document, some tentative remarks might be in order. The message is clear, from the financial support the planners have provided, that lack of money will not be allowed to be an alibi for inaction. However, before one gets over impressed by the outlay, it might be worth recalling that money has never been a problem for this programme even since its inception in the early fifties. Family planning's undoing has been implementation. Whether past operational strategy ensured a prudent and proper use of resources can be validly questioned. How much this has figured in the present thinking is what might require some scrutiny.

In this context, it is worth recalling what a team of health practitioners and social scientists--under the chairmanship of Dr Ramalingaswami, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, and comprising leading figures in the field--have stated in a perceptive analysis of health and family planning needs. Accepting as difficult but "realistic and feasible" the objectives and targets laid down by the Planning Commission's Working Group on Population Policy (which provide the overall framework for the population thrust of the Sixth Plan), they warned: "These goals cannot be achieved by a linear expansion of the existing system and even by tinkering with it through minor reforms". Amplifying on this in relation to the overall health infrastructure--which becomes a still more pointed criticism in application to the parallel, monolithic family planning network--they stressed: "A linear expansion of the model and a consequent pumping of more funds into the system will merely add to the existing waste and make the ultimate solution of our problems more difficult. We are also convinced that mere tinkering with the system through well-meant but misguided efforts as better training, better organization or better administration will also not yield satisfactory results. This is precisely what has been done during the last 30 years and the meagre results obtained is a strong pointer to the futility and wastefulness of continuing the same policies."

Their recommendations call for a radical change from the existing health care system which is elitist, centralized and curative in emphasis to one established in partnership with the people and sensitive to the total environment which influences health. Family planning is seen as an integral part of the development process, the two processes being mutually supportive and linked with health, which is viewed neither as a commodity or a service but as a process of living. Corresponding and similar targets for socio-economic programmes, health care and family planning pursued simultaneously and in an integrated fashion are, therefore, recommended.

Whatever the strength and weakness of the Sixth Plan's attempt at reorienting the health system into a more participatory, decentralized model with a network of infrastructure and personnel nearer the ground, the feedback on the family planning component suggests that this has not been achieved. Appraising past performance, the review identifies the inability to generate widespread public involvement and community participation as a major stumbling block. It points an accusing finger at administrative inadequacies both in availability and utilization of infrastructure, on the one hand, and manpower, on the other, besides the failure to use communication channels to the greatest advantage.

The analysis of the problem further incorporates the complex relationships established by recent research--the nexus between mortality, particularly infant mortality, and fertility, as well as the impact of economic development in general and the education, employment and emancipation of women in particular.

Plan

The plan of action for the next five years calls for a substantial increase in the number of family planning acceptors from the present 22.5 percent of eligible couples (a figure I would query, for this year's performance must certainly have

eroded this number further, even as it is now admitted that the years 1977-80 have reduced the cover from nearly 24 per cent to 22.5). By 1985 the effective average is expected to reach 36.3 per cent. In absolute numbers this will be an increase of almost 19 million couples above the present register of 24.5 million couples built up over nearly 15 years of intensive effort, including two years of frenetic activity.

Yet the prescription offered is virtually a lot more of the same admittedly-less-than-effective-style, further barring the pressures of the two years that brought a 50 percent increase in the numbers of those adopting family planning. Coercion has been rightly vetoed, but radical decisions within a humanistic framework do not seem to have been made either.

[10 Feb 81, p 6]

[Text] Apparently, nearly 70 per cent of the allocation for family planning is for "services and supplies." Practically half of this is for the maintenance of the existing network of family welfare centres and bureaus and the establishment of hundreds more on similar lines in order to extend coverage; another quarter is earmarked for the compensation for sterilization operations and IUD insertions at a slightly enhanced rate to offset inflation, but otherwise faithful to the past. Of the remaining services and supplies, the bulk is made up of the provision for special family planning efforts being mounted in 12 States and 44 districts under the area projects which are basically internationally funded.

Of the remainder of the allocation, over two-thirds--Rs 250 crores--is for Maternity and Child Health which could be seen as a new thrust to the programme, except that here again, despite the constant reiteration of the importance of MCH services and the recognition of reduction of maternal morbidity and infant mortality as a major means of popularizing family planning, the adopted approach ends by providing an illustration of the planners' inability to venture beyond the tried and concededly inadequate pathways.

The greater portion of the money in this sub-group is simply for the maintenance of existing MCH centres for the setting up and two years' operational expenses of another 40,000 sub-centres which would otherwise have figured under the Minimum Needs Programme. This allocation includes the staffing expenses of another 10,000 female health supervisors for the 40,000 sub-centres. While the Central funding might just ensure the creation of the infrastructure earlier than if the liability were on the State exchequer, this approach has obviously not taken into sufficient consideration the primary objectives of the exercise. It turns a blind eye to the reality in the field in regard to the female health supervisory staff, who have been found to be both unavailable and relatively unsuitable for the task of reaching out to the communities.

A detailed report on infrastructure and organization commissioned by the Planning Commission surveyed the scene not so long ago and raised considerable doubts regarding the wisdom of "prioritizing" the extension of the network of Auxiliary Nurse Midwives through sub-centres throughout the country, observing that field experience did not reflect well on the ANM image, the community having little confidence in the ability of mostly young, unmarried girls, themselves insecure outside their local environment. As regards availability, there was a curious

position--considerable vacancies in posts in most States, but surpluses in four, of which three are northern States notoriously backward in family planning, thus pointing to poor correlation between availability of ANMs and family planning performance.

As regards lady Health Visitors, it was found that 35 percent of the approved positions were not filled, the vacancies ranging as high as 60-80 per cent in those States at the bottom end of family planning performance. Nothing that the whole strategy of family planning work in rural areas was centred on the Lady Health Visitors and ANMs, the question was raised as to what work could be accomplished in the circumstances. Suggestions for a reorientation of health personnel attitudes, greater use of indigenous aids and older women from within the community have been mooted in sundry reviews. [as published]

But the Sixth Plan is placing more money on the same hobby horses under a different name, ironically after having eliminated the budget for the village-level women workers who alone can provide the community and domiciliary service MCH badly needs. Further, the Planning Commission has in its wisdom seen fit to pin its faith on these workers delivering the goods without the assured support of drugs (which continue to be supplied from the Minimum Needs Programme by the States which could not be trusted to set up the sub-centres in the first place). In the ultimate analysis, the bulk of the money is to be gobbled up by brick and mortar and wagebills, rather than substantially human investment of a different kind or facilities.

For all the talk of a people's movement, voluntary organizations are to receive a mere Rs 4 crores. The earlier linkage of 8 per cent of the total Central assistance to States being dependent on family planning performance (proposed but never implemented by the Congress government in its previous stint) has not been revived. But some money will reportedly be available for a package of incentives covering all sections of the population. This will be one positive innovation.

In another context, the Sixth Plan framework had quoted India's very first planning exercise: "The peasant's life is not cut into segments in the way the government's activities are apt to be." It had emphasized: "Experience has shown that uncoordinated efforts by a multiplicity of agencies do not lead to the desired results...the infusion of extra funds alone may not carry us far if all overlapping programmes are not made to coalesce functionally and generate a mass flow of development activity." Backing the considerable rhetoric for an integrated approach, the Sixth Plan has, it is learnt, taken a policy decision that family planning cannot remain the sole responsibility of the Department of Family Welfare but must devolve on the Government as a whole. Accordingly, every Ministry or Department would identify its area of activity in relation to family planning and be designated precise terms of responsibility. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare remains the nodal Ministry, and only the Ministry of Education has received a transfer of funds from the family planning budget for the work of population education now directly entrusted to it.

No new body is envisaged to coordinate the effort throughout the country. The Planning Commission, under the guidance of the National Development Council, will retain the present role of policy-making and resource allocation, including the fixing of long-term and short-term targets. There does not yet appear to be

any indication of a proper Population Division being created in the Planning Commission to back up this responsibility. Periodic monitoring and decision-making regarding correctives will be with a new Human Resource Development Cabinet-level committee serviced by a Secretaries Committee, with similar arrangements envisaged at the State level and the District Collector continuing to coordinate at the local level. A national consensus of support and commitment to the programme will be sought from political parties by the National Development Council in the near future.

Some time ago, at a meeting of experts deliberating on how to get family planning going, a leading demographer provided what I would call a succinct summing-up of what needs to be done: "Make all development population-focussed; the health services people-focussed; and family planning quality focussed."

Family planning is no doubt back in focus, but the strategies that will decide the outcome yet suffer from a lopsided view.

CSO: 4220

KASHMIR LEADER-DESIGNATE'S SPEECH REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Feb 81 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, Feb 16. President designate of the ruling National Conference Dr Farooq Abdullah has reiterated the demand for revocation of those Central laws which applied to the State between 1953 and 1974 and which are found to be 'encroaching on the State's internal autonomy.'

Addressing a largely-attended public meeting at Anantnag yesterday, Dr Farooq deprecated the 'false propaganda' against the National Conference in this regard. He denied the allegation that the demand for evocation of Central laws was aimed at undermining the "settled fact of accession." He said that the National Conference was firmly committed to accession "based on community of ideals." But it was also under an obligation to undo erosions made into the internal autonomy of the State during the Sheikh's political wilderness. The meeting was organised by Youth Federation, the youth wing of the ruling party led by Dr Farooq.

Dr Farooq said the Central laws were being reviewed by sub-committee of the State Cabinet. The committee was half way through its task. Its findings are proposed to be placed before the State legislature for future action. The committee will identify laws encroaching on internal autonomy of the State. Their revocation would be effected by the legislature after 'consultations' (with Centre presumably), he said.

Meanwhile, another leading member of the ruling party A R Wani, MLC has justified the demand for revocation of Central laws on the ground that it was in accordance with the agreed provisions of the Kashmir accord of 1975. In a statement, he claimed that the accord envisaged review of this law for their reconsideration.

CSO: 4220

CENTER ACCUSED OF HARASSING THREE STATES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Feb 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Centre is harassing Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal by repeatedly asking for their law and order situation while it turns a blind eye on the rising crime rate in Congress-I ruled States, CPI-M member Niren Ghosh charged at a meeting of Home Ministry's consultative committee on Tuesday.

Mr Ghosh also accused the Centre of being politically biased in its recruitment policy for Central security forces from these three States, firstly by taking only the barest number of youth from these areas and secondly by subjecting them to double security check.

The meeting, chaired by Ministers of State Yogendra Makwana and P Venkatasubbiah in the absence of Home Minister Zail Singh who is now in hospital, started on a stormy note when Mr Ghosh registered strong protest on the ground that two of his questions on law and order and the Central intelligence and security services had been dropped from the agenda.

According to Mr Ghosh, he had sought the Government's stand and details about the dismissal of the Intelligence Bureau employees who had launched an agitation, and their demands.

The Ministry took the stand that no formal enquiry was held before their dismissal as it was considered as not being in the interests of security of the State. The Government had the right to summarily dismiss a Government servant and it was not possible to divulge the reasons to the Committee.

The CPI-M leader called the system atrocious and said even if the employees were sacked under Article 311, the Committee had the right to know the grievances of the Intelligence Bureau employees and whether police deputations had superceded the Bureau's directly-recruited staff.

Mr Ghosh said his second question that was bypassed related to the Centre's action calling for reports from States on the law and order situation. He wanted the Government to inform how many times such reports had been called for and from which States. When the Government said the issue was of too general a nature, Mr Ghosh charged that it was being used for harassing the non-Congress-I ruled State Governments.

He said the Centre was politically biased in this, as the Congress-I ruled States were being spared of this action.

The argument on the CRPF and the CISF came when Mr Ghosh sought details of the troubles in the two organisations. He charged that the Government's recruitment policy again had a political bias.

According to him, a committee of IGPAs and DIGs had once decided that there should be no more recruitments from Tripura, Bengal and Kerala. The Government however felt it would be inconvenient, but ensured that the recruitment from the three states was only nominal. Mr Ghosh said up to 70 per cent of all CRPF and CISF men were recruited from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan, while a few hundreds were taken from the three non-Congress-I ruled States.

On behalf of the Government it was stated that the three States had refused to verify the antecedents of the recruits and, therefore, the Centre itself had to do the verification. Mr Ghosh charged that the double Central verification itself was a means of harrassing these States.

Mr Yogendra Sharma questioned the Government on the exclusion questions on the police, particularly those on the large number of deaths at the hands of the police.

According to an official spokesman, the Ministers informed⁴ the meeting about steps being taken for the welfare of the Harijans and Scheduled Castes and Tribes, as also on the status of the Assam situation.

Mr Makwana told the members that the Government would provide protection to the minorities and weaker sections.

Referring to the Assam situation, Mr Makwana said the Government was always ready to discuss with the Assam agitation leaders, but the student leaders had turned down the Government proposals several times.

CSO: 4220

DROUGHT AFFECTS CROPS IN RAJASTHAN

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 21 Feb 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20: All the 26 districts of Rajasthan State of India have been affected by drought in varying degrees resulting in a poor Kharif crop and substantial shrinkage in Rabi sowing.

This was stated by Indian Minister for agriculture Rao Bhairon Singh in parliament today on a calling attention motion about a serious famine situation in Rajasthan compounded by power shortage.

The minister said the state government has identified 3,643 drought affected villages where special arrangements were being made for providing drinking water by trucks, rail and camel carts.

He said the state government

had estimated Rabi food production to be 28 lakh tonnes as against 30.34 lakh tonnes during 1979-80.

The agriculture minister said Indian Government had sanctioned Rs. 30 crore to help mitigate the existing hardship and future distress of the people of Rajasthan. He said due to meagre resources neither the centre nor the state government could afford to pay full compensation of those affected by natural calamities.

Rao Bhairon Singh said the central government had asked Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh state governments to allow grazing facilities for cattle coming from Rajasthan, in their lands and forests either free of cost or at nominal rates.—APP.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

KASHMIR MINISTER WARNING--Jammu, Feb 20--The chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, said here yesterday that people of the state shall have to be alert as great powers like Russia had come closer to the Jammu and Kashmir border after recent developments in Afghanistan. There is only a single strip, part of Kashmir, under Pakistan occupation, which is between this border bastion of India and Russia now, he said, adding "God alone knows what shall happen tomorrow." The Kashmir leader, who was speaking at Kungwani, 11 kms from here, where the president, Mr N. Sanjiva Reddy inaugurated the Jammu bypass and a long bridge over the Tawi River, said "we cannot afford to be complacent as our state, being of strategic importance, was now touching border of great powers--China and Russia." The chief minister cautioned that the turmoil in the neighbourhood of Kashmir may be dangerous for the economic well-being of the country and freedom and survival of the people of the state. [Excerpt] [BK031355 New Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Feb 81 p 8]

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS--Onkar Nath Sheopuri, presently ambassador of India to Mozambique, has been appointed ambassador of India to Morocco in succession to Uday Chand Soni. Hari Krishan Mahajan, presently ambassador of India to Bahrain, has been appointed the first resident high commissioner of India to Cyprus. [BK231331 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1505 GMT 23 Feb 81]

CONGRESS-I ACTIVITY RAPPED--Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah has alleged that the Congress-I is trying to topple his government. Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the governor's address in the State Assembly, the Sheikh said Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi is calling upon the people to give up the agitational path. But the state unit of the Congress-I is trying to create instability in the state. [Text] [BK281610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 81]

MANIPUR STATE UNDER RULE--Manipur has been brought under president's rule with immediate effect. The state legislative assembly has been kept under suspended animation. This step has been taken on the report of the governor of Manipur which the cabinet considered earlier today. [Text] [BK281608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 81]

MIZORAM DECLARED DISTURBED AREA--Mizoram has been declared as a disturbed area for a further period of 6 months from the 20th of this month. Lt Governor N.P. Mathur issued an order to this effect in Aijol today. [Text] [BK031625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 81]

JAMMU, KASHMIR GRAIN PROCUREMENT--Jammu, Feb 9 (PTI)--Jammu and Kashmir procured 11.42 lakh quintals of foodgrains during the current financial year--a record for the last 10 years. As a result of enhancement in the procurement prices and other measures taken to increase food production, 8.50 lakh quintals of paddy and 2.92 lakh quintals of wheat were procured this year. This has resulted in the reduction of food subsidy to a large extent. The amount of food subsidy, which stood at Rs 20 crore in 1974-75 has now fallen to Rs 5.77 crore. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Feb 81 p 5]

VENEZUELAN OIL--India is to get five lakh tonnes of crude from Venezuela during this year, it was announced on Monday. An agreement to this effect has been signed between the Indian Oil Corporation and the Venezuelan state undertaking Corpoven SA. This will be the first time that Venezuelan crude will be received by India. The government had earlier requested Venezuelan for the supply of crude as part of its plan to diversify sources of crude oil supply. Corpoven SA has further agreed that it will make suitable exchanges and supply oil from West Asian sources to reduce the freight expenses. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Feb 81 p 7]

CSO: 4220

REPORTS OF TAX PAYMENTS, RICE SALES CONTINUE

Outhoumphon, Savannakhet Taxes, Sales

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 11 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Recently the members of agricultural cooperatives and the multi-ethnic farmers in the 16 cantons of Outhoumphon District, Savannakhet Province have brought in rice that they correctly figured from their crops to pay as agricultural tax to the state. The total came to 1,128.346 tons.

There are also reports that at the same time, the members of agricultural cooperatives and the farmers in Khanthabouli District in that province mobilized themselves to bring in their surplus rice for sale and exchange to the state for goods they need. The total amount of rice was 174 tons.

Presently, the rice has been stored in the granary and is being well taken care of.

Paksan Taxes, Sales

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 12 Feb 81 pp 1, 3

[Text] On 7 February, the Paksan District Administrative Committee in Vientiane Province summarized the campaign to collect agricultural taxes and sell rice to the state throughout their district. Participating were the party committee, the District Administrative Committee and the canton administrative committee of every canton in the district.

On this occasion, the person responsible for the collection of agricultural taxes and state rice purchases in Paksan District said that from December 1980 to the beginning of February 1981, the movement to pay agricultural taxes and to sell rice to the state on the part of the people in the 14 cantons of the district. The campaign has been carried out in a climate of happiness and the utmost in revolutionary spirit. During that time they paid a total of more than 370 tons in taxes and sold more than 174 tons to the state. The tax payment and rice sales movement on the part of the farmers in Paksan District has obtained good results because each person understands and accepts his role in the task of defending and building the socialist nation so that it will be gradually more prosperous and stronger.

Siang Ngeun, Luang Prabang Sales, Taxes

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 13 Feb 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Beginning in December 1980, the farmers in various localities throughout Siang Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province were voluntarily self-aware to report the actual incomes from their harvest and then pay the agricultural tax. Moreover, they also happily brought in their surplus rice for sale to the state. The total amount involved was a little over 140 tons. Of that amount, sales to the state came to something over 30 tons.

Houa Phan, Khammouan, Saravane Taxes

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 16 Feb 81 pp A 1, 2

[Excerpt] Since December 1980, the members of agricultural cooperatives and the multi-ethnic farmers of Nong Khang, Sam Neua, Houa Xiang and Houa Khang Cantons, Sam Neua District, Houa Phan Province; 14 cantons in Hin Boun District, Khammouan Province; Khong Sedone and Vapikhamthong Districts of Saravane Province have become voluntarily self-aware to report their incomes and bring the rice in for payment of agricultural taxes to the state in the most fair manner possible. The rice amounts to a total of 1,552 tons, of which Saravane Province had 834 tons and Hin Boun District had 487 tons.

At the same time the multi-ethnic people of those localities diligently brought in their surplus rice for sale and exchange for goods to the state. This additional amount came to 2,064 tons of which Vapi District had 1,550 tons.

Phong Saly, Luang Prabang Taxes, Sales

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 17 Feb 81 p A 5

[Text] While the multi-ethnic population throughout the nation was performing their tasks of paying agricultural taxes and selling rice to the state, since December 1980, the members of the agricultural cooperatives and the farmers in various localities in Phong Saly Province brought in rice correctly calculated from their harvest and that figured as surplus to pay as agricultural tax and sell or exchange for goods with the state. The total amount was 1,853.074 tons. Of that, 1,603.507 tons was paid as agricultural tax.

There are also reports that at the same time, the members of agricultural cooperatives and farmers in various areas in Luang Prabang Province brought in their surplus rice for sale to the state. This totalled 109 tons with the best performance being that of Oudomsai District with 58 tons of rice and Siang Men Canton with more than 34 tons.

At present, the movement to pay agricultural taxes and sell rice to the state on the part of the agricultural cooperative members and farmers of those areas is continuing apace.

Phon Hong Sales, Taxes

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 5 Feb 81 p A 4

[Excerpt] After completing the harvest of their crops, from November to December 1980 the members of the agricultural cooperatives and the farmers of various localities in Phon Hong District, Vientiane Province were voluntarily self-aware to sincerely report the incomes from their harvest to the local administrative authorities. They brought in the rice calculated from the harvest to pay as agricultural tax and brought in their surplus rice for sale to the state in a cheerful manner.

Throughout that time, they paid as taxes and sold to the state more than 432 tons of rice. Of that, Saka Canton paid in tax and sold nearly 76 tons to the state.

Luang Prabang, Kasi Sales

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 5 Feb 81 p A 5

[Excerpt] Along with bringing in rice they calculated as surplus to pay as agricultural tax, the multi-ethnic farmers in Nam Bac, Na Gnang, Nam Douan, Nam Heung, Nam Miang, Nam Sat and Nam Nga Cantons, Oudomxai District, Luang Prabang Province and the multi-ethnic farmers in Na Mon and Hin Ngon cantons, Kasi District, Vientiane Province together brought in rice that they calculated to be surplus for sale to the state. This amounted to 142 tons of which Kasi District, Vientiane Province had more than 93 tons.

Siang Kho, Houa Phan Taxes, Sales

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 7 Feb 81 p A 4

[Excerpt] Along with the movement to pay agricultural taxes and sell rice to the state on the part of the multi-ethnic people of various localities throughout the country, beginning at the end of December 1980, the members of the agricultural cooperatives and farmers of four cantons: Meuang Van, Sop Mon, Sop Sai and Hoi, Siang Kho District, Houa Phan Province have joined together to bring in the rice that has been correctly calculated and is surplus for payment as agricultural tax and for sale to the state. The total amount is 254 tons. Of that, 150 tons was tax. The best performance was by Sop Mon Canton which paid in tax and sold 121 tons.

Sikhottabong Taxes

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 7 Feb 81 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Since January 1981, the people in Kao Liao and Nong Niao Cantons, Sikhottabong District in Vientiane Capital have become voluntarily self-aware to bring in their rice that was left after their calculations for consumption to pay as agricultural tax and to exchange with the state. The total amount of rice was 71.499 tons, of which 29.425 tons was tax and 35.753 tons was for exchange.

CSO: 4206

MALAYSIA

SOLIDARITY OF ETHNIC CHINESE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INTERESTS URGED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 12 Jan 81 p 5

[Article by Chien Hsien [0494 0123]]

[Text] One point we must stress at the outset is: when we discuss the conditions of the Chinese in the fields of politics, economy, education and culture, and compare them with the bumiputras, we are not to be accused of playing up racial or chauvinistic sentiments.

Ethnic Chinese and other nationalities are facing the same varied difficult problems. These problems represent a part of the nation's problems and should be treated and considered as such from the national angle and standpoint.

No one can deny that even though we have entered the 80's, our political life at the present stage is still based on nationalism. The party that hold our political rein is still a nationalist party, while the composition and activities of all major political parties are limited to one national unit. Although the slogan of "Malaysian parties are for all Malaysians" still exists, the fact is that these political parties are nationalistic in nature, and the themes stressed by their leaders, as well as their basic supporters, belong to a certain nationality, hardly supported by the other nationalities.

To say the least, nationalistic politics is the main current of our national politics at the present stage. Consequently, we cannot evade or avoid all political, economic and education and cultural problems from being involved with racial problems.

When we discuss the future of the Chinese in Malaysia, the first common impression lamented by one and all is the weakness in our political power and the disarray in our society.

All of us are fully aware of the innumerable opinions concerning egoistic political pursuits of the Chinese, all of which boil down to the fact that we have too many Chinese political parties, such as the Malayan Chinese Association, People's Action Party and People's Political Alliance.

Too many political parties have caused a major political split among the Chinese, which in turn brought them disadvantages. At first we thought we had too few representatives in parliament and fewer Chinese in the cabinet, and so we could not fight for our legitimate interests.

Such view is basically correct but too simplistic, and does not comprehend the seriousness of the true situation. It appears that in certain quarters among us an illusion prevails as if we still could do something to make up for our political loss. Perhaps this is a kind of Ah Q spirit.

This illusion is based on an economic foundation.

Up to now many Chinese still entertain this kind of illusion, believing that we can get some compensation for our political loss in the economic field. They believe that we Chinese can still control the economic life-line of the country, that we can do business better than the Malays and that we are still way ahead of non-Chinese elements in mining and industrial enterprises.

We cannot entirely blame the out-of-date thinking of those Chinese or the fact that so many Chinese are still immersed in or hanging tightly onto the beautiful economic dream of the past. Chinese politicians, whether in power or out, should be held responsible for this kind of situation, because in the process of leading the Chinese people's political struggle, they have been paying too much emphasis on local short-term interests, such as the acquisition of elective seats [in government or Parliament]; they did not really do their duty in leading the masses or enhancing the mental awareness of the people.

Of course, there are many factors making the Malayan Chinese Association afraid to speak the truth or the People's Action Party to divulge the true conditions of the state. Although a few Malayan Chinese Association's leaders have spoken their minds out loud in recent years, this is still not enough, and it is assumed they will carry on with the good work even to the point of losing their own posts.

Is it true that the Chinese are still in control of the economic life-line of our country? We should wake up from this daydreaming. Following the decline in our political position, ethnic Chinese citizens have been relegated far behind in all aspects, whether it is politics, economy, education and culture, religious and military affairs. Although the position we are in has not reached a deadend, the future would be apprehensive if we did not banish our prejudices and unite among ourselves rightaway.

And how about the economic situation of the Chinese people?

1) At present, there are only four or 5 ships owned and operated by the Chinese. In tin mining industry, it would be something proud and overwhelming to own a ship which would cost about 15 million Malayan dollars to build.

The Chinese have had more than 130 years of history in tin mining, from primitive to modern methods, and they only owned four to five ships by now--a reflection of their hard and bitter struggle.

As to the Malays, who ever heard of them owning a ship or a tin mine during the past century? Their share of tin-mining ownership was pitifully low--less than 1 percent.

However, during a short period of 5 years since 1975, the Malays bought over "London Tin Mining Company" of England through an organization called "Trade Wind," which is a subsidiary of State-owned Enterprises. This company owns more than 50 of the 60-odd ships in the entire Malaysia, thus enabling the Malays to own more than 50 ships overnight and control 50 percent of the entire tin mining production throughout the country. In contrast, the Chinese compatriots owned only 4 to 5 ships after 130 years of hard work, while the Malays could acquire more than 50 ships overnight. One ship is equivalent to 15 millionaires, so how many millionaires have 50 ships created?

2) Are we also relegated to the background by the Malays in rubber plantation, as we have been in tin mining industry?

According to an interim report of the Third Malaysian Plan, the Malays own 20 percent of the entire rubber plantations. Ever since it controlled the conglomerate in Negeri Sembilan in 1977, the State Enterprise Corporation again tried to buy over another foreign-registered rubber plantation and trading company 2 years ago, namely, the Gatilee [phonetic] bloc. Whether the attempt will succeed or not, only time will tell. The merger of these two blocs may well become one of the world's largest plantation companies, thereby controlling rubber plantation business in its grasp.

This is further evidence that the role played by the Chinese in rubber plantation will be even more dismal than in tin mining industry.

3) Our country has planted about 2 million standard [?] palm trees, of which about 900,000 belong to the Federal Land Development Bureau. Add to this the other palm trees owned by Risda, Sime Darby and Boustead, and we can deduce that the bumiputra-controlled palm oil plantation exceeds 60 percent of the entire area throughout the country.

Having found themselves in a miserable situation in tin mining and rubber plantation, the Chinese have now lost control in palm oil plantation.

4) In another line of business, the Chinese simply have no chance to get into it. This is petroleum industry, which is entirely under the control of State Petroleum Corporation. How can we keep on talking nonsense like a fool?

Simply in the four abovementioned enterprises, the wealth controlled by the bumiputras have already exceeded the total wealth owned by the ethnic Chinese compatriots.

If this situation still does not convince those people, who think that "the Chinese are in control of the economy," to the effect that the Malays are way ahead of us in economics, then let us take a look at banking and money market business.

In the past, who ever heard of Malays opening a bank or of a Malay banker? At present, all the banks we see and hear about are owned by foreigners, such as Chartered Bank, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Bank of America and Chase Manhattan. Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation, Chung Kiao Bank, China United Bank and Lee Wah Bank are owned by Singaporeans.

The three largest banks in our country, including Bank of Malaya, Bank Bumiputra and United Bank, as well as Kong Ek Bank which is under the control of Bank of Malaya, are already under the control of bumiputras or a bumiputra conglomerate.

Bank of Malaya, Kong Ek Bank, United Bank, Tai Ping Bank and Industrial Bank were originally promoted and founded by Chinese, but today they have fallen into the hands of bumiputras.

Only the following banks are owned by the Chinese: Toa Chong, Southern, Hock Hwa, Kong Lee and Kong Beng.

Chinese-owned banks together with their branches and sub-branches scattered in Sabah, Sarawak and other West Malaysian cities number less than Bank of Malaya's branches located in Selangor state alone.

In terms of deposits, the total amount deposited in Chinese-owned banks is less than 10 percent of money deposited in bumiputra-owned banks. Furthermore, it is no longer possible for ethnic Chinese people to apply for a new banking or financial license under the existing policy.

Further and more awesome evidence of the bumiputras' tremendous economic progress are available, but the abovementioned examples are already sufficient for us to be on the alert. All of us have also experienced the difficulties we have gone through in cultural and educational matters. Regarding our economic backwardness, we are awaiting further efforts by our political leaders to give our compatriots a true picture and explanation.

It would be difficult to retrieve what we have lost, and it would be of secondary importance to examine the causes or to blame the Malayan Chinese Association. For the present, the most important thing is how to arrest further loss of our interests.

Even preventing the continued loss of our interests is wrought with numerous difficulties, although this is a mere negative and sad effort. And we are not sure whether we can succeed.

Whether we can do it or not is the common task of 5 million Chinese people. We cannot shove the problem toward the Malayan Chinese Association; the People's Action Party cannot keep on criticizing people and do nothing else; the People's Political Alliance should not make high-sounding statements or air opposing views all the time; and the Chinese Federation should make more positive contributions. Every Chinese has a responsibility.

Only through the solidarity of 5 million Chinese can the interests of 5 million Chinese be safeguarded. Can we unite among ourselves? How can we do it? This is not a problem of method, but of whether or not the 5 million Chinese have a sense of national responsibility.

9300
CSO: 4205

BREAKING OF 'CHINESE COMMON WILL' DISCUSSED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 15 Jan 81 p 5

[Article by Yu Chang [5148 4545]]

[Text] The breakup of Chinese political strength and the dissension of Chinese society constitute one and the same problem. The fact that there are numerous ethnic Chinese political parties of differing political outlooks has created the problem of what really represents the common will of the Chinese people.

In an ideologically-split Chinese society, its members of various unit attachments (political parties, social organizations, unions, guilds, classes) hold differing views and conclusions on one same issue, each unit claiming to represent "the Chinese common will."

By way of example, let us analyse the problem of founding the Independence University, which has become a threadbare topic in the Chinese community for more than 10 years. In discussing about this problem, the Democratic Action Party and the Association of Trustees and Teachers invariably claimed that it is the common will of the Chinese to found the university, and they even collected the seals and signatures of more than 4,000 Chinese organizations to support their claim.

The Democratic Action Party, reflecting its "Malaysia for Malaysians" political stand, dared not publicly state that its victory in the Chinese electoral constituency was based on its platform that the Chinese should support the founding of Independence University. In private conversations, however, the party admitted the abovementioned factor, for the Independence University issue was the core of the party's propaganda disseminated among the Chinese electorate.

Some leaders of the Malayan Chinese Association did not deny that the issue of Independence University was one of the factors for this party's defeat. Moreover, this issue brought a considerable tremor to the party's inner circle, as the open support to found the university by certain branches and sub-branches of the party and its affiliate, the Malayan Chinese Youth League, nearly brought about a split to the parent organization.

The Malayan Chinese Association was troubled by the Independence University issue through three elections from 1969 to 1978, making itself difficult and facing hostility from all sides. Its vacillation whether to support or reject the issue gives the public the clear conclusion that the Malayan Chinese Association has not totally rejected the view that founding Independence University is the wish of the Chinese people.

Now the Malayan Chinese Association has firmly proclaimed its rejection against the founding of Independence University. Does this mean that it has completely negated the view that founding the university is the common wish of the Chinese people? Or is it because of pressure or a showdown by the United Malay National organization.

When Lee San Choon announced the association's rejection of the founding of the university, campaigning for the state councilors by-election in Kampong Kolam, Penang, was entering its peak period. Ninety percent of the electorate in this constituency were Chinese people. The result of the balloting was that strongman Khoo Kee Poh of People's Political Alliance was beaten by Wee Yahm Kong of Democratic Action Party.

Subsequently, the Democratic Action Party did not deny that its victory had something to do with the Malayan Chinese Association's rejection of the university issue; the People's Political Alliance even claimed that it was stabbed in the back by the Malayan Chinese Association, which proved that the by-election result had a connection with the university issue.

All in all, doesn't it mean that founding Independence University is a common will of the Chinese people?

The dissenters do not think so. They say that there are nearly 10,000 Chinese organizations throughout Malaysia, of which 4,000 supported the move to found the university. But how about the other 5 to 6 thousand organizations which did not attach their signatures? Although they cannot be presumed to reject the idea altogether, this signifies that they either wavered or did not support it positively.

In the previous national and state parliamentary elections, the Democratic Action Party, which supported Independence University, got 16 seats, but the Malayan Chinese Association, which did not take a clear stand on the issue, won 17 seats. It is possible that the Malayan Chinese Association used this victory as a clue to reject the founding of Independence University and, corollarily, to negate the idea that founding the university represents a common will of the Chinese people.

So, which represents the common will of the Chinese people after all: To back up the founding or to turn it down? We cannot say that both do.

Some people said that the Malayan Chinese Association rejected Independence University only after the 1978 elections, and that to decide which view represents the Chinese common will, we have to wait until the 1983 general elections when the Chinese electorate will make another choice. In the forthcoming battle between the two political parties, if the election result is in favor of the Malayan

Chinese Association, then we can deduce that rejecting the founding of Independence University represents the common will of the Chinese people. On the other hand, if the Democratic Action Party gets a better result in the election, then supporting the founding of the university represents the Chinese common will.

Such a "verdict" is not without shortcomings, though, because there are many factors for the Chinese electorate to vote for one party or the other, involving not only cultural and educational matters, but also politics, economy, religion and military affairs. Of course, it cannot be denied that cultural and educational factors have a significant effect on the way the Chinese electorate cast their votes, and that the victory or defeat of the two contending parties will depend on their respective policies on culture and education. Hence, it cannot be denied that the Independence University issue will play an important role.

Based on the Independence University issue alone, it can be gleaned that, within the disintegrated Chinese society, whatever subject matter is brought up by its members may be argued either as a common will or not as a common will of the Chinese people. It is this kind of disputes that enables the government to smoothly implement its "divide and rule" policy. Whether this policy is a calamity or a blessing to the ethnic Chinese nationals may be best answered by the present conditions of the Chinese community.

9300
CSO: 4205

SPLIT IN NATIONAL FRONT COALITION DISCUSSED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 15 Jan 81 p 5

[Text] The slogan of "National Front Coalition for Malays, Malays for National Front Coalition" explains the political unity and solidarity of the Malays, especially when it is compared with that of the Malayan Chinese Association and the Chinese community.

There is no doubt that the Malays are very united in politics. This solidarity has served well as an important factor for them to attain brilliant achievements in politics, economics, culture, education, religion and military affairs within a short period of 23 Years. In contrast, the most serious defect of the Chinese society is its lack of unity and disarray of political force. As a result, the Chinese find themselves in the present dismal position and under attacks from various quarters.

While it is a positive fact that the Malays are politically united, this does not mean that there is absolutely no contradiction, defect or split in the Malayan society.

The existence of the Pan-Malayan Religious Union not only signifies the prevalence of differing political opinions among the Malays, but also portends their dissimilar interpretations of Islamic belief. This is a big blow to the Malayan society.

Of course factors for a split within the Malayan society do exist. There is a possibility that the factors which have forged the National Front Coalition to become strong and stable may one day turn sour with the passing of time or due to mishandling of certain situations.

Islam is an important factor to promote the spiritual solidarity between the National Front Coalition and the Malays. However, the party's development of economic reconstruction may cause a friction or even a conflict between spiritual and material things, which would weaken the position of the party. Islam at one time instructed the Islamic Party to reap some benefits, which resulted in a material-spiritual disequilibrium and in Asri's downfall.

The situation in the Malayan traditional society was the same. This problem was more complicated, and the National Front Coalition obtained great benefits from it. Who would dare say positively that the party would not be affected in this respect? An example was the incident that befell the chieftain of Jitlabu in Negeri Sembilan state.

Some people hold that the political trend among Malays is that it is moving gradually from solidarity toward split-up. The issues arising between politics and economy, religion and politics, religion and economy, within the traditional society itself, and between the traditional society and National Front Coalition--all these issues tend to drive the Malays toward a dissension. Signs of this dissension may be reflected more markedly and more intensified during in-fightings among the various cliques in the National Front Coalition. The Harun Incident, Sababun Mustafa Incident and the incident involving the Sultan of Perak and a former state councillor are relatively glaring examples.

In facing the latent danger of dissension within the Malayan society, the National Front Coalition adopts a quick and firm decision, a method proven considerably successful thus far. It may be said that the party grew up out of overcoming these dangerous threats. When its leaders shout loudly about the differences between bumiputras and non-bumiputras, it is a sign that the party is having some internal trouble and that it will adopt some overt or covert measures.

As a matter of fact, compared with the Chinese society, the problems faced by the Malays are more complicated, more numerous, but they can solve them one by one. On the other hand, the Chinese society always makes things worse, because, basically, there is no unity among its members.

The Malayan society and the Chinese society are the same, each troubled by unity-hampering factors. The Malays, trusting their political leaders and appropriately exerting their nationalism, have triumphed over dissension and achieved unity. The Chinese are suspicious of their own political leaders and unable to give play to their own nationalism; they are still engaged in cliqueism, bickering with one another, egoistic, totally disintegrated. Members of 5,000 years of Chinese culture, let us examine ourselves!

9300
CSO: 4205

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT--The king has appointed Kedar Prasad Koirala, Nepal's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, concurrently as Nepal's ambassador to Jordan, Qatar and Syria. This was stated in a notice published on 24 February by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king. [BK231259 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 24 Feb 81]

COOPERATION ACCORD WITH FRANCE--Nepal and France signed an agreement on economic cooperation in Paris on 23 February. Under the agreement France will provide an assistance of 120.5 million rupees to Nepal. [BK231259 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 24 Feb 81]

CANADIAN GRANT ASSISTANCE--Canada is to provide a grant assistance of 3.5 million rupees to relieve the condition of food shortage and earthquake damage in Nepal. A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed on 24 February between governments of Nepal and Canada in Katmandu. [BK231259 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 24 Feb 81]

BIRENDRA RETURN--Kathmandu, Feb 9 (REUTER)--King Birendra of Nepal returned home yesterday after a five day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Anwar Sadat on world issues and bilateral relations. It was the 35-year-old king's first visit to any Arab country since he ascended the throne in 1972. Nepalese Foreign Minister K B Shahi, who accompanied King Birendra told reporters: the visit helped us to have a better perception of the problems facing the Middle East. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Feb 81 p 3]

CSO: 4220

PAKISTAN

'TRUTH' ABOUT INDIAN SECULARISM IN JAMMU , KASHMIR REPORTED

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 16 Jan 81 pp 17-18

[Article by Kalim Akhtar: "Truth About Indian Secularism in Jammu and Kashmir"]

[Text] Reports received from Occupied Kashmir indicate that internal disorder in that province has reached a full scale level and in three parts of the state, Jammu, Kashmir and Laddakh, disorder is occurring through various methods. In Jammu, which is now the state winter capital, the Indian Congress has initiated a movement against Shaykh Abdullah, the present leader of the government. The slogan of the movement is that the administration and control of the state are unsatisfactory, prices are high and the government has failed to solve the people's problems. The National Conference, on the other hand, states that the Indian Congress intends to eliminate Shaykh Abdullah's regime and establish a presidential government. The present leadership of India has also been plotting similar schemes in other states where there are non-Congress ministries. Therefore, the Congress has forwarded a petition to the provincial governor, Mr Lakshmi Kanant Jha.

At present, the central government is against Mr Lakshmi Kanant Jha and knows that he is not working according to its wishes and intent. He has not taken any steps to eliminate Shaykh Abdullah's government. At the end of Mr Jha's term of office, news arrived that the government was going to appoint Sardar Soaran Singh as governor of the province. And now news has been received that if Sardar Soaran Singh refuses to accept the post, then the post will be given to the ex-ambassador and politician, Mr B.K. Nehru. Either one of the two, when appointed as governor of the occupied territory, will clear the way to annex the state of India. Both of them have a similar political attitude, as does the Nehru family, toward Kashmir. The Abdullah government has repressed the Jammu movement and has jailed the Congress workers for breaking the peace.

The second issue concerns Kashmir--the province of Kashmir. For example, in Kashmir the Indian Congress movement is being challenged by the Youth Generation. This organization of young people is patronized by Dr Faruq Abdullah and presided over by Muzaffar Ahmed Kochek whose guardians are the present provincial ministers. This organization has the support of all the elements that are against the ideas of Indian dominance and the state's complete annexation to India.

The third issue is of Laddakh. The Abdullah government is ready to make a division of this territory and the government has controlled the situation after crushing the movement. The movement was started on the instructions of the central

government, but the Abdullah's personal influence and his government's planning and mastery achieved an end which the Indian Government had not expected. Now Sheikh Abdullah has sent a three-man committee to Laddakh. The committee consists of the treasury minister, Mr Thakir, the construction minister, S.G. Shah, and the minister of finance and forestry, Ghulam Muhammad Kochak. The committee will consider the Laddakh people's demands and will study various orders and procedures. As far as Shaykh Abdullah is concerned, he is ready to make a separate division (provincial framework) of Laddakh. He is even willing to accept the Laddakhis as a separate tribe. It is important to mention that Buddhists are in the majority in Laddakh and they have religious freedom. But the Indian government wants to settle Hindus in this territory. Many Hindu families have already been settled and the Buddhists do not like the move. This was becoming an issue for the Indian Government and it therefore started a movement toward separation so that the Abdullah government would be influenced. But the opposite resulted. Shaykh Abdullah said that in his eyes, all people are equal and he is ready to make Laddakh an equal territorial division. It is now up to the people of Laddakh to choose Layya or Kargal as the capital city. Both these cities are situated in Laddakh and each one has been a separate constituency. It is hoped that the people of Laddakh and their leaders will solve this matter with the three-man committee by mutual understanding. Meanwhile, the Indian Government has sent an offer to Shaykh Abdullah to join in the central government. But Sheikh Abdullah clearly replied that his purpose is to serve the people of Kashmir. India was thinking that after bringing Shaykh Abdullah into the central government, she would appoint a man of her choice as in the past, such as the late Bakhshi Ghulam Muhammad, Ghulam Muhammad Sadiq, Pir Shamsud-Din or Mir Muhammad Qasim. But with the refusal of Sheikh Abdullah, India failed to have its way.

The fact is that India wants to end the Islamic distinction of the state and even today, Muslims are in the majority in the state and India dislikes this fact. The reflection of Islamic life is quite clear there and religious shrines and mosques are present. In 1964, in an agreement with Bakhshi Ghulam Muhammad, a holy hair from the tomb of the holy man, Hazrat Bill, was removed. India had thought that this move would disrupt the spiritual ties of the Muslims of Kashmir, but the move proved quite the opposite. India had to release Shaykh Muhammad Abdullah after 11 years of imprisonment.

India is fostering secularism yet on the other hand is trying to root out the Muslims. A clear example of this is the recent Murad Abad disturbances. India spread the rumor that the Hindu population was declining on a daily basis and set up an organization to deal with this. The president of the organization will be Mr Nariudar, the editor of PARTAB. India's purpose was to halt the increasing Muslim population in India and other states. DAAVAT-E-DELHI writes about this issue and states that this move will eliminate the Muslims. Obstacles have been created to disrupt the religious practices of the Muslims in Occupied Kashmir. Recently, Maulana Saifud Din, the vice-president of the Jama'at-e-Islami in Kashmir, stated in a press conference that many obstacles are being created to stop the Jama'at's activity. Recently, he said that all types of schemes are being attempted to halt the party's acts, and it is alleged that the party is receiving aid from foreign sources. This money is actually donations from the Ka... people and the money is used for purely religious activities.

A few days ago, Mrs Indira Gandhi said that the Jama'at-e-Islami and Gin Singh parties would be disbanded. Her real intention was to disband only the Jama'at-e-Islami party. All the Gin Singh party members are working in the Bharatia Junta party. As far as donations are concerned, the Jama'at-e-Islami is not only spending money on Muslims but on non-Muslims as well. According to a survey, the last disturbance which took place in Bara Moola, Islamabad (Anant Nag), Phosar Wala and Palwanah, caused damages costing 400,000,000 rupees. The Jama'at-e-Islami helped the victims, regardless of religion or nationality. These people included Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus. But India does not approve of this because such moves demonstrate the Islamic belief in care for humanity through generosity and human kindness.

The Jama'at-e-Islami of Occupied Kashmir would like only one thing and that is a decision concerning the future of the state. This should be made according to the regulations of the UN Security Council because the Fashmiris want the right to vote. India does not like the plan. Due to the increasing popularity of the Jama'at, India launched a campaign to close down the Jama'at-e-Islami schools. In the province before 1975, there were 40,000 students in the schools of the Jama'at-e-Islami. But the government took over control of 90 schools out of 150 and now there are only 60 schools which are run by the Jama'at-e-Islami and managed by the Public Welfare Trust.

India is telling the world that it is a secular state. But actually, she is a staunch religious state in which people are not treated equally. Because the state of Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed state and the majority of its population are Muslims, India continually spreads rumors and organizes moves that would cause the destruction of Islamic characteristics in the state and fragment the state into pieces.

9778
CSO: 4203

LAWYERS ASSOCIATION URGES HOLDING OF ELECTIONS

BK031039 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Text] Karachi, 3 Mar (AFP)--The Sind High Court Bar Association here today urged the military regime of Pakistan President General Mohammad Ziaulhaq to "redeem its pledge of holding a free and fair election under the constitution" and hand over power to the elected representatives of the people.

The general body meeting of the bar association, meeting in the premises of the Sind High Court, the lawyers had gathered today to play their historic role for restoration of the democratic process and realization of human rights (sentence as received). They expressed concern over the situation in which a constitution given by the people of Pakistan to themselves had remained suspended for the last 3 and a half years. During this period the country had been governed by men who are not the elected representatives of the people.

Lawyers in Karachi had observed a protest against the military regime and boycotted lower courts yesterday.

The meeting resolved that there was no substitute for the democratic process, and the interests of the people and the country demanded that the return to the constitutional process should not any longer be postponed.

"It is no credit to any country that its people should be under martial law irrespective of the merits of the government," the resolution added.

The bar association meeting expressed alarm on the progressive deterioration of the law and order situation wherein robberies, dacoities and murders appear to be the order of the day with the administrative machinery constantly proving themselves to be unequal to the task of ensuring a secure and carefree life to the people.

The meeting recorded its deep concern on the reported arrest of 53 lawyers of Lahore City, who raised their voices for revival of the constitutional process, and demanded their release.

CSO: 4220

ANXIETY REPORTED AMONG UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, STUDENTS

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 26 Jan 81 pp 7-8

[Article by Masud Akhtar: "Anxiety Created Among The Professors In Universities and Students"]

[Text] The conditions that Pakistan has been facing for sometime demanded that there should be complete internal peace and normalcy; no such steps should be taken to cause unrest in a sensitive and influential community. Some national groups have been demanding that those elements in the national school system that are preaching non-Islamic ideologies and creating dissention in the new generation against Pakistan and its political ideologies should be crushed. Time after time they have been pointing out these elements to the president of the country and to the minister of education and instructing them to keep a vigilant look. The government could not succeed in controlling them, although the supporters and defenders of those elements did succeed in organizing schemes that could cause long-range potential trouble.

It was heard that a University Ordinance Amendment that was constituted by the federal government and implemented by the chancellors of the universities has caused dismay and displeasure among the majority of students and teachers. Only those people are happy who want to see confusion spreading in the higher educational institutions. The younger generation should express their displeasure against the government. On 18 January, a conference of different federations of the universities' teachers from all over Pakistan took place in Quaid-i-Azam University. At that conference, teacher representatives from every university in the country were present. It was demanded that the said University Ordinance implemented in every province should be immediately repealed and that the teachers will peacefully continue their struggle against the act. They will do so until the old University Ordinance is implemented. The teachers' representatives interpreted the University Ordinance Amendment and the following is a summary of their feelings:

1. The implementation of the ordinance is totally unreasonable and unnecessary. National interests will be damaged by creating confusion at present among the university teachers and students.
2. Part of the ordinance deals with the transfers of the teachers. They feel that this has made their futures unsafe. The teachers are upset and perplexed and

they feel that they would be unable to work with confidence. This will adversely affect teaching and research.

3. Because of the ordinance, the autonomy of the university has totally ended. In the different departments of the university, especially in the Syndicate, instead of representatives and deans elected by the teachers, the rule of selection has been put into effect and the chancellors and vice-chancellors have become authoritarians. This situation is not favorable at all in the interests of higher education. To deprive the highly educated class of its democratic right in the higher education institutions of the country cannot be a positive decision. The only favorable side of the Ordinance involves the teaching of Pakistan and Islamic Studies on the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science levels. But that could be arranged to be done without implementing the Ordinance.

An Evaluation

If the University Teaching Ordinance is evaluated from any point of view, no positive results will be gained. The government has stated that the purpose of the implementation of the Ordinance is to provide better administration in the educational institutions. If it means better administration, then steps could be taken under the old University Ordinance regulations to make the management and administration of the university employees more workable. This could even be solved under a martial law order. The CHATAN readers know that in the last 3 to 4 years, some occurrences in various universities developed and were placed under the category of disturbances. Such complaints came to the attention of the people who wanted to defy martial law regulations and support anti-Pakistan activities. However, no action was taken in this regard.

A Major Difference

Under the University Ordinance Act, although students' representation has remained the same, the provision about the elected representatives of the university teachers has been abolished and the vice-chancellor has the authority to appoint three teachers to the Syndicate. The president of the Students' Union will still be a member of the Syndicate. In the last Syndicate, six elected representatives of the teachers used to be present. Everyone knows that students are always zealous and emotional and sometimes it is difficult to keep their emotions under control, and confrontations between different factions occur. Giving a membership to the elected students' representatives and denying the teachers of their right to elect their representatives in an unprecedented situation. At present, rumors or news is in the air that one part of the Ordinance is yet to come and that concerns the students' organizations. The above-mentioned difference supports the notion that something wrong is at the bottom of all this.

Actual Purpose

Readers know that in most of the country's higher educational institutions the majority of the elected representatives of the students' and teachers' organizations are those who are traditionally Islamic patriots. The presence of disruptive elements in the organizations of the students and teachers had made it quite difficult to provide unqualifying support for the Islamic patriots. The

disruptive elements are notorious for their hidden and doubtful activities and have been quite influential in other organizations for the past 3 or 4 years. It is evident that many of principles will oppose any such step which, in his view, is wrong and unjustified. The University Ordinance Amendment is gaining disfavor in every part of the country. The students and teachers and their associations are attempting to have the amendment repealed. It is quite clear that those who had the University Ordinance Amendment prepared and implemented have succeeded in a cunning scheme. We are not speaking partially. We are speaking as a matter of principle. The question is that the government has implemented the Ordinance Amendment. So in any case, no decision concerning university matters can take place until the teachers are consulted and their consultation is made part of the decision. The centralization of power in the university did not produce good results within the universities. In certain universities, elected offices were not present and in those universities with the centralization of powers, nothing profitable was gained. Complaints arose, confusion spread and now it has been decided to make all the universities a stage of confusion and complaint. From the way certain foreign critics and writers are presenting the struggle of the students and teachers against the University Ordinance, we can infer what is in the devious minds of those who had the Ordinance implemented. The minister of education, Khan Muhammad Ali Kan, is personally a gentleman. He worships God and is a very kind person. Everyday in his speeches he emphasizes the need to root out the anti-Islamic elements in the educational institutions. He should think of what is happening and what plots are being organized in the field of education behind his back. There is no question about good intentions and feelings concerning one Pakistan. Dr Muhammad Afzal, the education advisor, knows about the rules and regulations concerning different world universities, the working conditions of the teachers and different educational systems. He should think about the situation and decide as to what positive results of the implementation of the University Ordinance Amendment would eventually occur. He should also consider those people whom the government still approved of and who were disgusted with the situation and had to leave the country.

We have been complaining for years that good and intelligent teachers are leaving for other countries. Under the conditions that the University Ordinance Act has created for the teachers, no one can work with confidence. Those who had not thought of leaving the country are now thinking of doing so; those who wanted higher positions have always been present and will be. If real teachers disappeared or become disgusted, then spending large sums of money on education will be totally worthless. The real desire is that the gap that has been created between the government and the teachers and students be bridged. Evidently some people will remind the government that it is not a good policy to repeal the Ordinance. Although this would not be the fact in reality. If the government repeals the Ordinance it will be a realistic step in solving the problem. As far as the compulsory teaching of the subjects of Islamic studies and Pakistan studies on the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science levels, no one opposes the move; students and teachers welcome that step. But whatever is done under this step seems like trying to give a bitter pill with a sugar coating. It was not necessary to implement an ordinance to make Islamic and Pakistan studies compulsory subjects. These could be made compulsory by a separate order. Observers know that the way the Ordinance was slowly implemented and the way the section of the Ordinance concerning Islamic and Pakistan studies was distinguished seemed to suggest an attempt to conceal the negative features with the more positive good news.

What Pakistan actually needs is a higher standard of education in which the younger generation of the nation should be trained as righteous Muslims and Pakistanis. There should be peace and tranquility in the universities and the process of learning should flow smoothly. Everyone knows the condition of the universities before the middle of 1977. In the past 3 to 4 years, despite unfavorable conditions, righteous students and teachers personally worked in the national interest and peace was restored. Probably their actions were disliked by the disruptive elements who do not know real leadership.

At present, the existing tension between teachers and students is against the interests of the country. We are sorry to say this. Those who claim to be improving the conditions in the educational institutions do not realize the existing social conditions. Bribery, lawlessness, favoritism, nepotism, crimes and other misdeeds still exist, and have any of these been repealed?

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CSO: 4203

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

FOREIGN WEAPONS USED IN KARACHI--According to the Karachi police, four persons have been arrested in connection with the shooting incident at Karachi University on the 26th of last month. A press note issued in Karachi says the car used in this crime has been located. A foreign-made grenade was found intact in the car. The press note says the examination of an empty cartridge found by Karachi University-based national cadet corps personnel at the site of the incident revealed that it was also of foreign make. It may be recalled that on the 26th of last month some miscreants opened fire near the administration block of Karachi University, resulting in the death of one student and injuries to a number of others. [Text] [BK021600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 81]

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH INDONESIA--Pakistan and Indonesia have signed an agreement for technical cooperation in the field of agriculture. This was stated by the foreign secretary yesterday evening on his return to Islamabad from Jakarta. Under the agreement, the research organizations of the two countries will cooperate with each other in various agricultural projects. [Text] [BK020900 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Mar 81]

CSO: 4203

THAILAND

EDITORIAL REVIEWS LABOR STRIFE

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 11 Feb 81 p 3

[Editorial: "The Labor Problem"]

[Text] At present, the labor situation in the country is becoming a problem. A serious split between the government and the labor unions is developing. Labor union representatives throughout the country have sent a petition to General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, calling on the government to act on seven points.

The requests considered to be important include the request for a repeal of the cabinet resolution that allows state public utility enterprise officials to be exempt from the labor relations laws, the request for a repeal of Ministry of Interior Notice No 3, which gives the minister of interior the power to veto minimum wage rates proposed by the wage committee and the request for new discussions to stipulate measures to solve the problem of unfair lay offs and to increase compensation levels in accord with the labor relations laws so that they are in accord with the cost of living.

Concerning these requests by the labor unions, in fact, the government has already issued statements, most of which were compromises, or stated that it is considering matters. There is really only one request [not acted on] and that concerns allowing the minister of interior to take part in discussing the minimum wage rates proposed by the wage committee. Concerning this, the government stated that it could not act in accord with the request of the labor unions.

The reason that the government has insisted on this is that it believes that the minimum wage rate is an important matter that affects the economy in general, including the monthly wage rates of those in other occupations, the price of goods and the cost of living in general.

We agree with some of the requests of the labor unions, such as those concerning unfair lay offs by employers and low and unsuitable compensation payments. Such things take advantage of the workers. But at the same time, we do not agree with some of the other

requests, such as that calling for state enterprises to be excluded from the Labor Relations Act. We believe that the employers of the state enterprises are taxpayers too. [Also, we do not agree with the request that] the government, which is responsible for administering the country, not take part in setting minimum wage rates. Thus, we hope that the labor unions consider these things, if the requests have been made with pure intentions and without any hidden motives.

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CSO: 4207

THAILAND

NAKHON PHANOM CPT DEFECTORS DESCRIBE JUNGLE EXPERIENCES

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 11 Feb 81 pp 7, 10, 12

[Article: "Massive Sweep Operations Have Been Launched Against the Communist Terrorists In the Northeast. Terrorists Have Left the Jungle and Surrendered"]

[Text] At 2200 hours on 1 December 1980, D.T. Niphon Butrapala, the head of the Phundaet Commune police station in Mukdahan District, Nakhon Phanom Province, was working at the commune police station when two young men, alternately running and walking, arrived looking for him. They told him that they had both defected from the communist terrorists and that they wanted to surrender to officials. They had been in the jungle with the communists for 7 years and they asked the official to take them to surrender to district officials.

Then at 0800 hours on 2 December 1980, D.T. Niphon took both men and turned them over to Police Major Thongchai Khlaiwongwan, the inspector on duty at the Mukdahan District police station in Nakhon Phanom Province, in order to interrogate both men. From the interrogation, it was learned that one man was Mr Mun Sirikan, or Comrade Phen, age 20, a native of Hai Village in Dongmon Commune, Mukdahan District. He had gone into the jungle in 1974. He was stationed with Unit 917, Area 33, Phu Phan Noi, which was responsible for the area between Mukdahan and Kham Cha-i districts in Nakhon Phanom Province. There were tunnels where he had lived with 40 communist terrorists, both men and women. He had been in clashes with government officials at least 10 times. The other person was Mr Mai Panyawong, or Comrade Han, age 20, who was a native of Song Plua Village in Dongmon Commune, Mukdahan District. He had gone and joined the communists in 1974 and had been stationed with Company 156, which was composed of 89 people. It was responsible for Nakae District in Nakhon Phanom Province and Yaowong Subdistrict in Kalasin Province. He had been in clashes with government officials at least 15 times. As for why they had now surrendered to government officials, both men said that in the beginning, they had been duped by the communists, who had promised them that they would be important

people after the government was toppled. Both had waited 7 years but the expected results had not materialized. Also, recently, the government has been carrying on large-scale sweep operations against them and they could no longer bear the hunger. While they were with the communists, they received 30 baht a month. Now, both of these communists who fled and surrendered expect that large numbers of other terrorists will come and surrender to government officials. While they were in the jungle with the communists, there were many former students there too but [they] did not know which university they came from. And sometimes, Mr Khaisaeng Suksai, a former MP from Nakhon Phanom, came and held political ideology training sessions.

Police Major Thongchai reported this to Police Lieutenant Colonel Thongpleo Phaengkham, the chief inspector at the Mukdahan District police station, and to Sub-Lieutenant Niran Yingaruntham, the district officer, in order to turn them over to officials of the Second Army in Sakon Nakhon for further investigation.

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